

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Files

DATE: FEB 27 1979

FROM : Richard E. Salmi  
Staff Inspector

*Richard E. Salmi*

SUBJECT: MK-ULTRA  
AC-AI-77-F0342

*which files former?*

During the summer of 1977, the Central Intelligence Agency discovered a series of files which indicated unwitting drug testing on unidentified human subjects at safe houses which were funded by the CIA and operated by former Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN) personnel at New York and San Francisco from 1953 to 1966. The CIA released salient documents to the Drug Enforcement Administration, and during September 1977, the Office of Internal Security initiated an investigation relative to the FBN's involvement with the CIA in the unwitting testing on humans in the project identified as MK-ULTRA. The scope of DEA investigation included the following:

- A. Determine the involvement of FBN personnel in the CIA project.
- B. Determine the details of the activities and the locations.
- C. Determine how the program was funded and under what authority.
- D. Determine if DEA is currently involved with the CIA in projects of a similar nature.

It is noted that the investigation was limited to the above areas and no attempts were made to identify the unknown number alleged victims of the drug experiments in the safe houses.

The IN investigation revealed that from May 1953 to April 1966, FBN cooperated with the CIA in the establishing and maintaining of safe houses in the New York and San Francisco areas. With the exception of the late George H. White, the investigation did not identify any DEA or predecessor agency employee involved with the CIA in any drug testing. A review of the available information indicates that the CIA established the project for the unwitting testing of drugs on human subjects. Further, the investigation



revealed that the Drug Enforcement Administration is not currently cooperating with the CIA in any safe house activity. Additionally, no records were located that indicate that DEA or predecessor agencies provided drugs to the CIA.

During September 1977, several current and former representatives of DEA and CIA testified during Senate hearings before the Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research of the Committee on Human Resources. As a result of the discovery of partial MK-ULTRA files and the Senate hearings, Admiral Turner, Director of the CIA, stated the CIA would make every effort possible to reconstruct the MK-ULTRA projects and to identify any unwitting subjects who had been drugged. MK-ULTRA was an "umbrella project" under which there were 149 sensitive sub-projects involving research into behavioral modification, drug acquisition and testing or administering drugs surreptitiously.

From the Fall of 1977 through most of 1978, the CIA reconstructed most of the MK-ULTRA subprojects except those dealing with unwitting drug testing at the safe houses in New York and San Francisco. During the Fall of 1978, the Department of Justice opined that there is a duty on the part of the Government to seek out and notify persons who may have been harmed as a result of their having been used as unwitting subjects of drug experimentation.

In a letter dated January 10, 1979, Admiral Turner requested that Attorney General Bell have someone designated to work in concert with the CIA to pursue this investigation. On January 25, 1979, the Attorney General replied to Admiral Turner's letter and advised that the Drug Enforcement Administration would designate someone to work with the CIA. On February 5, 1979, Administrator Bensinger informed Admiral Turner that I had been designated as DEA's Project Officer.

On February 9, 1979, I received a call from Mr. ~~Robert H. Wilts~~, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director Administration, CIA. Mr. ~~Wilts~~ stated that he is CIA's project officer in this endeavor and requested I come to CIA Headquarters as soon as possible. That afternoon I spent three hours with Mr. ~~Wilts~~. On February 15 and 16, I spent the entire working hours at CIA Headquarters with Mr. ~~Frank Lambinger~~ of the Office of Technical

Services exchanging views, ideas and file research. Mr. **Laubinger** and I will be conducting the actual investigations into attempting to identify the "victims." In a meeting with a CIA attorney, on February 16, 1979, the investigative scope and guidelines were explained to both me and Mr. **Laubinger**.

Mr. **Laubinger** and I have extensive research at our respective agencies, and it is anticipated we will be leaving for San Francisco during the week of March 19, 1979. While in the San Francisco area, we will copy and research White's diaries for additional leads, research a September 1977 San Francisco radio broadcast and interview current and former DEA employees. It is estimated that 20 to 25 current and former DEA and CIA employees will have to be contacted or re-contacted, either in person or by telephone. The persons to be contacted are located in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu, San Diego, Arizona, Florida, Chicago, New York and Washington, D. C.

Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JAN 24 1979

24 JAN 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Assistance to CIA to identify unwitting  
subjects of drug-testing.

Attached for your signature is a letter to Director Turner replying to his request for DEA cooperation in identifying those who may have been administered drugs without their knowledge in safehouses in New York City and San Francisco. According to Director Turner's letter, the CIA and the then Bureau of Narcotics "engaged in an operation of joint interest to the two agencies" that may have involved the surreptitious administration of drugs to human subjects at these locations. We have been in contact with DEA on this matter, and we are informed that the only DEA employee with substantial knowledge of this matter is now dead. Nonetheless, we believe that, even though this effort may prove fruitless, every reasonable attempt should be made to locate unwitting subjects of drug experimentation who may still be suffering adverse effects. We therefore recommend that you accede to Director Turner's request and offer DEA's cooperation.

Peter Bensinger has already been informed of this matter, and will contact Director Turner's office upon receiving a copy of the attached letter.

*Larry A. Hammond*

Larry A. Hammond

Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Counsel

cc: Peter Bensinger  
Administrator  
Drug Enforcement Administration

The Director  
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

06 July 1979

The Honorable Peter B. Bensinger  
Administrator  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20537

Dear Peter:

Thank you for making the services of Richard E. Salmi available to us as needed since early February to assist in our search for unwitting subjects of MKULTRA drug research conducted during the 1950's and 1960's.

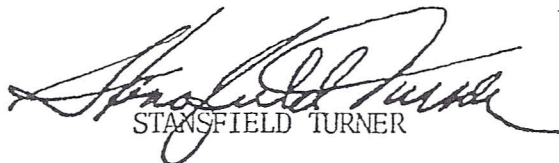
Mr. Salmi's services have been invaluable. We have found him to be a highly competent, dedicated, and professional investigator. I would appreciate your conveying to him my commendation and appreciation for a job well done.

We also appreciate the friendly cooperation and assistance given graciously by other members of your staff, particularly those in your San Francisco office. They have been most accommodating.

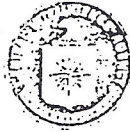
I am sending to Senator Bayh and Senator Kennedy today my final report of our search. A copy has been sent separately to members of your staff. I believe you will share my sense of relief that we have found the program was much less extensive than originally feared.

Again, your cooperation and assistance are deeply appreciated.

Yours,

  
STANSFIELD TURNER

The Director  
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

06 July 1979

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Griffin:

Last January, in response to my request for assistance in our effort to identify persons who may have been administered drugs without their knowledge or consent as a part of the MKULTRA program conducted in safehouses in New York City and San Francisco, you asked the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration to designate a representative to work with us. Mr. Bensinger designated Mr. Richard E. Salmi, a staff inspector assigned to the Office of Internal Security at DEA, and made him available to us virtually full time since early February.

With the very able help of Mr. Salmi and the gracious cooperation and assistance of many people in DEA, particularly those in the San Francisco office, we have completed our investigation. I am sending my final report to Senator Bayh and Senator Kennedy today informing them that we learned of seven, and possibly eight, cases where LSD had been administered to individuals unwittingly, but were unable to establish with a comfortable degree of certainty that these were the only cases. One of the subjects died of cancer about five years after the incident. Two others have been found and notified. While this cannot be counted as complete success, I nonetheless feel a certain sense of relief from having the reasonable assurance that the program apparently was much less extensive than originally feared.

Your interest and willingness to help in this matter are very much appreciated. I have written separately to Mr. Bensinger expressing to him my appreciation for all the help given by his Administration. Again, many thanks for your cooperation and assistance.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sten".

STANSFIELD TURNER

cc: The Honorable Peter Bensinger

May 7, 1979

Richard F. Salmi  
Staff Inspector

NK-ULTRA AC-AI-77-F0342

FILE

My memoranda of February 27 and April 4, 1979, serve as status reports on DEA's current cooperation with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) concerning the alleged surreptitious drugging in CIA funded and former FBN operated safehouses in New York and San Francisco.

On March 31, 1979, CIA official [REDACTED] and I returned to Washington, D.C. after having spent two weeks in Arizona and California. During April, we conducted interviews of current and former agents associated with DEA or predecessor agencies and persons who were associated with the CIA. Aside from conducting interviews in Washington, D.C., we travelled to Florida and New York. We conducted interviews in West Palm Beach and the Keys during April 9-12, and in the greater New York City area on April 26-27.

The information we developed on the east coast resulted in additional investigative leads to be explored in Chicago; Missoula, Montana; and various locations in the San Francisco area. On the morning of March 3, 1979, I received a call from CIA and was advised that we should proceed to these cities as soon as possible. It is anticipated that Mr. [REDACTED] and I will depart Washington, D.C. for those cities on Tuesday morning, May 8, 1979, and hopefully will return to Washington, D.C. on or before Monday, May 14th.

There were a total of 149 sub-projects which involved the CIA's behavioral modification programs - six of those sub-projects involved former FBN operated safehouses. The CIA has recently concluded their efforts to reconstruct the other 143 programs and have prepared a report of their findings for submission to Senator Kennedy. Their interim report also addresses the fact that a current investigation is underway to address the six sub-projects concerning the unwitting drug testing.

Aside from some additional interviews in the Washington, D.C. area of former CIA employees, we expect that our travels next week will be the last of our field work and all that will be remaining in this effort will be the analysis of our data and the preparation of a final report.

IN/SALMI:baa:5/4/79  
IN File  
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SALMI



File MK ULTRA

Ref 3/13

AC-AI-77-FO342

9 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration  
VIA: Robert H. Wiltse, Special Assistant/DDA  
FROM: Frank Laubinger, Victims Task Force

1. The potentially most controversial activity in the search for victims of CIA's drug research is about to begin. This memo is to make the activities planned a matter of record and to assure that you are aware of them. I plan to go to the West Coast and points between in order to attempt to identify victims of CIA's drug research activity. Many of the activities I am about to undertake are on the ill-defined fringe of CIA's charter. It is my opinion that the nature and spirit of the DCI's commitment to the Congress requires this investigation. The controversial aspect of this activity results from CIA having no authority to investigate Americans and to engage in domestic intelligence collection. The Attorney General, however, has in a letter dated 17 July 1978, ruled that CIA can and should undertake this activity within certain prescribed limitations.

2. Very briefly, I intend to travel to the West Coast and return along with a Drug Enforcement Administration Officer. The DEA officer has been assigned at our request to assist in our investigation; the DEA has no independent reason to investigate this matter at this time. In the course of this trip we intend to:

- A. Interview former CIA employees formerly associated with MKULTRA.
- B. Interview present and former DEA officers who visited the safehouses or who otherwise might be of assistance in deciphering the very cryptic papers left by White.
- C. Review and photograph George White's diary now located at the Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California.
- D. Investigate leads we now have as a result of investigative efforts to date, as well as to follow up leads

obtained from the diary, to include:

- (1) Interviews of many people including Mrs. George White and other citizens.
- (2) Searches of public records available primarily in San Francisco and possibly elsewhere in California.
- (3) Possibly an effort to review hospital admission records if there is no alternative to establish an individuals's identity.
- (4) Travel within California as required by the leads developed. I will also use funds for courteous entertainment when I feel such use is in the best interest of the U.S. Government.

I will travel overtly as CIA, use CIA contact credentials when and if required, and will at no time use any type of cover for these activities. In order to assure that all CIA equities have been properly protected, my plans have been coordinated within the Agency with:

The Office of the General Counsel, the Director of Public Affairs, and the DDO's Domestic Contact Divison. The DCD officer in San Francisco has been advised of my anticipated arrival in San Francisco. DCD has also generously offered administrative support, if needed, while there.

Other offices made aware of my plans, although less formally, include: the IG Staff, OLC, and the Office of Security.

5. I am very much aware of limitations placed on the CIA investigations of individuals. I will not attempt to collect or to learn of biographic or personality data on individuals beyond that required to identify specific individuals as victims. Some alleged victims will only be identifiable through their employment or the activities in which they were engaged when they were drugged. In such instances some information on and about individuals will have to be obtained in order to establish identification. No effort will be made to contact victims and if victims are identified every effort will be made to protect their privacy consistent with establishing their identity. Notification is recognized as a separate activity.

6. The DEA has investigative authorities we do not have. Situations may develop which I feel go beyond CIA's charter but which are within the charter of DEA. In such instances I shall withdraw and allow, but not direct, the DEA officer to proceed as far as his authority allows.

7. In some instances, I will be requesting officers, especially former CIA and DEA officers, to give me information which is personally embarrassing to them and which they may deem to be against their interests. I will assure each officer that my assignment is to attempt to identify victims, not to put former officers in jeopardy. I will take few notes when talking to former officers who elect to furnish the needed information - and then only with their permission. And I am currently attempting to have such notes declared the official property of the U.S. Senate to shelter them from FOIA requests.

8. A liason relationship with the FBI has been developed on this subject. To assure adequate backstopping I have requested that their San Francisco office be informed of my presence in the area.

  
Frank Laubinger

c.c. DEA